Importance of information literacy in education

1. Fostering life Long learning: information literacy enables a student to find info rmation, analyze the information and effectively used information independen tly. It's enabled the students to continuously learn more knowledge and also m ake them adapt to technology advancement

2. Developing critical thinking skills; information literacy enable the students to q uestion information, analyze the different perspectives and make conclusions. Information literacy will enable the students to recognize biased information, a ccess credibility of sources and avoid misinformation. It's enables the student s to develop more robust and informed decision making skills.

3. Preparation for future workforce; information literacy empower the student wit h skills to navigate complex information environment, solve problems and con tributes to their organization. It also enables the students to effectively comm unicate information, collaborate with each other and make informed decision s.

4. Promoting ethical and responsible information use; information literacy will en able the students to be responsible digital citizen and contribute responsibly in online community

5. Enhance academic performance; information literacy enables students to puff participate in research activity, participate in classroom discussion and to be a ble to complete assignments it enables them to effectively use information in supporting arguments and analyse complex issues.

Skills in information literacy

To become an information literate person one must develop specific skills that en able them to navigate the vast amount information if efficiently . These skills help in searching for, accessing, managing and communicating information. The key s kills in information literacy include

1. Research literacy; this is the ability to effectively search for and gather relevant information for various sources it and compasses skills like identifying resear ch needs comma finding relevant sources and understanding research metho dologies,

    evaluating the credibility of research sources and synthesizing information fr om multiple sources. The key skills under research literacy are identifying rese

arch needs, locating relevance information, evaluating information sources, understanding research methods, synthesizing information, ethical consideration.

2. Tool literacy; this is the ability to use print and electronic resources including softwares and online resources to access, retrieve, evaluate, manage and communication. Examples of tools are Google scholars, library databases , end notes, mendeley, Microsoft tea, zoom , WhatsApp, Google drive, Excel etc

3. Resource details; it is the ability to understand the various types of information resources,and knowing where to find them. It encompasses understanding the difference format of information in print, non-print, audio visual it also involves understanding how to access and retrieve information from these resources.

4. Social- structural literacy; awareness of how information is created, organized and shared in the society examples are understanding why some research papers requires subscriptions while others are openers. Also recognizing how government policies or corporate shapes the flow of information. It means understanding how Society's Eden rules and powers systems affects the information we see, hear and belief.

5. Critical thinking literacy; this involves thinking beyond the literal meaning of a text to determine what is present and what is missing in order to analyze and evaluate the text complete meaning and the author's intent.

6.Emerging technology literacy ; this is the ability to understand, evaluate and use emerging. technologies, including artificial intelligence, virtual reality and other rapidly developing technologies. It goes beyond simply learning how to use these technologies, it involves understanding the underlining principles, potentials applications, and ethical implications of these technologies.

7. Publishing literacy.

Information search strategies

There are various ways or means through which an individual who is in need of information tries to meet the information need there's no information need that does not have an answer to it somewhere else it becomes necessary for an individual with an information need to access such information from wherever it could be found. The manner, method , approach, system that are deployed in the process of seeking for information that we meet the information need is

called information search strategies.

Categories of information search strategies

1. Information searching that is independent of any information system; this is where the individual in need of information relates with colleagues to solve the information problem or relate with a group of people that he or she believes that could be of help to provide the needed information. The individual with the information need does not make use off information system .

2. Information searching based on information sub- system: this is when the individual with information need search for information with the aid of mediators or technologies. The individual consult with a librarian, information scientist or order professionals who could be of help to assist him or her in assessing the needed information. The use of computer, online search, catalogs or any other assisted means to assist to assess the information is made by the . The use of this subsystems especially the computer and software search depends largely on the information literacy skills of the users.

3. Mediator based strategy; this is when the research is to be done entirely by im mediator on behalf of the person that really needs the information the mediator takes the information need from the individual it takes the full responsibility of searching for the information. This type of search is also called documents delivery or specialized or full referencing such.

4. Technology based search; this involves the use of such engines like Google scholar, explorers to access needed information.